

STRATFORD'S OPPOSITION

THE PORT of Bridgeport project received severe treatment at the hands of a Stratford town meeting, last night, when the town's representatives were instructed to oppose the bill.

The opposition was of two chief kinds, that caused by the nature of the bill, and that caused by the feeling of Stratford men that Bridgeport is seeking an advantage of the old town.

There was some opposition based upon the belief that the legislation amounts to an annexation of the two communities, an opinion entirely unfounded, since the bill merely creates a union of Stratford and Bridgeport for the purposes of conducting a freight terminal by rail and water.

The failure to appreciate the limited character of the union was natural, because this type of organization is not very familiar in Connecticut.

Massachusetts has many municipal corporations in which a number of cities and towns have united to perform some purpose in common, such as supplying themselves with water, or making common disposal of sewage, or arranging a common park system.

This objection, not being well founded, would yield to argument. The form of the bill is to be changed. The bill is to be democratized and subject to referendum. It but needed the presence of the new bill to allay the second objection of Stratford citizens.

The third objection is more difficult, harder to dispose of. It consists in a jealousy of Bridgeport, in the idea of a small place, that it is to be made the stalking horse for a larger place.

In every material sense, given proof that the project would be self supporting, the Port of Bridgeport would be a benefit to Stratford, the risk and cost of which would be derived from the taxation and credit of Bridgeport.

The lands which are proposed for development are all in Stratford, are waste lands and yield little or no revenue. To utilize them under the Port of Bridgeport plan would be to bring to Stratford two kinds of values, the one not taxable; the other, taxable.

The property of the Port, the wharves, docks, canals, machinery for loading and unloading vessels would be public property and pay no tax. But factories within the terminal, or about it, would be taxable, and the property in land and dwellings of the workers employed in the factories and for the operation of the terminal, and from these sources Stratford would derive a revenue probably much greater than any tax demand for the creation of the terminal.

In effect Stratford was invited to permit the erection within its boundaries of an enterprise in which it would have contributed but \$1 in each \$20, and from which it would have received all of the direct material benefit derived from the presence of the physical property and the actual operation of a great, going concern.

It is difficult to see how the town should have been in a different frame of mind. The bill was unfortunate, and to men who have never forgotten the principles of the New England town meeting, and who have never ceased to operate under the town meeting plan, it was absolutely obnoxious.

To get a hearing upon the merits of its Port of Bridgeport project, the Chamber of Commerce must begin again, offering for consideration, a democratic plan and method, which will be the result of co-operation with the taxpayers. The inventor of a new thing must offer his invention to the public, not by compulsion, but by agreement.

PEACE AND SOVEREIGNTY

THE SUN, which once was a newspaper of singular reasonableness, has sunk under its new ownership to a state in which often it merely drives out its illogical opposition to anything it chances not to like, as in this beautiful thought about the Covenant of the League of Nations:

The Sun is in the forefront of those who hope for the abolition of war by any practical scheme that does not involve the abolition or impairment of our national sovereignty and independence.

And this fine piece of nonsense is given to mankind as thought, reason, logic, understanding; as something which men may guide themselves by.

There can be no practical scheme for the abolition of war that does not involve the "impairment" of the sovereignty of that nation by just the extent of its agreement to that scheme.

A nation which agrees not to fight, or which agrees not to fight except under certain conditions, has parted with its right to do otherwise than it agrees, and hence with a part of its sovereignty.

No nation can agree not to make war and retain the right to make it. No nation can agree to submit to arbitration and retain the right not to arbitrate. None can agree not to fight until within three months after decision and retain the right to fight earlier.

The sovereignty of a nation, its right to do exactly as at any moment it pleases, is impaired by whatever it yields, and must be so impaired.

There can be no such thing as contract of world peace which leaves with each nation the right to do as it pleases about war. Sovereignty is and must be impaired, to the extent of what is yielded.

To talk of a league of peace as being an abolition of the sovereignty of America is a stupidity. The Covenant touches a very few of the multitude of things a nation may do, to bring those things into the League of Nations, precisely as the colonies funded portions of their powers into the United States of America.

We may be sure that if a League of Nations is established to have control of certain international affairs, its powers will at last extend to all of those interests which the world has in common which in some way need to be settled, and each state will part with its right to settle the affairs of the world, in favor of a settlement of such affairs by the world.

The delightful desire to do exactly as one pleases is no longer a rule of action by which individuals or peoples may live to the best advantage.

EXTENDS MONROE DOCTRINE

IN HIS speech at Portland former President Taft asserts the quite plain view that the Covenant of the League of Nations fortifies the Monroe Doctrine, especially in Article X of the Covenant, which makes it obligatory upon league members to preserve the territorial and political rights of member states from external aggression.

This is the sound view as opposed to the assertion that the Monroe Doctrine is of impaired authority, by the language of the Covenant.

THE SHOOTING OF GLEMENCEAU

THE MAN who shot Clemenceau is a crank. This is the judgment reflected in the news. The event falls there-

fore into the category of the unpreventable. Whether or not a man will be struck by lightning, killed by a falling meteor, or slain by a crazy man are events which doubtless have underlying laws, but these laws are not within the reach of present human intelligence, and little can be immediately done, worth talking about, to furnish protection against such killings.

It is as useless to moralize over a deranged mind, and the illogical acts that flow from it, as it is to discuss means by which war may exist and nobody be killed.

Great men, and especially great statesmen, may be guarded, but this remedy is futile against a determined assassin. There are two remedies of a chief and others of a minor character that might possibly be effective after a long period.

Cranks kill statesmen largely because they share the common thought, which attributes too much authority to the man and not enough to the system.

Fewer cranks would have this belief if education conveyed the true relation of the leader to the things about him.

This crank tried to kill Clemenceau because the crank believed that Clemenceau favored war. He did not sufficiently understand that war flows from a state of mind in the many, and not from the state of mind of one or two.

Something might be accomplished toward the elimination of cranks, through a process of social improvement which would remove the chief sources of insanity, many of which are known.

Murderous cranks and crazy men are indications of a defective social constitution, in about the same sense that certain diseases are the product of defects in the constitution of individual bodies. There should be a more general recognition of the danger in permitting unbalanced individuals the same freedom that is granted to the normal. The shooting of Alderman Walker, the killing of Dr. Thompson, and the attempts to slay Clemenceau are phenomena of a very similar character; phenomena that do not receive enough attention. Alcoholism and the social malady are fertile sources of mental disorganization.

THOSE NOT TO BE TRUSTED

POINDEXTER AND FESS, who see in the World League, "the seed of war," scarcely take pains to note that the American constitution contained the seed of war. Before the union "one and indivisible" was accomplished with unshakable permanence there came the strife between north and south, which determined that states once in the federation might not leave it. If there should be sometime a war because some nation thinks it has the right to separate itself from mankind, that would be an excellent and not improbably the last war.

The League of Nations is an attempt to prevent war. It may not succeed. If it does not, and there are other wars, nothing has happened for the worse. The remedy was tried and it failed, and things were as before.

But the League of Nations may prevent some wars without preventing all wars. Then it will be a success just to the extent of the bloodshed it saves.

Why argue? Mr. Taft brushes aside the Poindexters, the Fesses and their kind in the simplest way.

"The gentlemen in the senate," Mr. Taft says, "who are setting out to defeat this League of Nations are those I would not trust over night."

Mr. Taft forgot the House. Those in the House who are setting out to defeat this League of Nations must also be those whom he would not trust over night.

BRING THE ARMY BACK

SENATOR REED rears his voice in roaring demand to bring the army back, imitating Mr. Hearst, who is accumulating merit in the same way, but with his pen.

One thing keeps these stalwarts from becoming the acknowledged and only champions of the soldiers in France. Government started to bring the army back months ago, and the process is proceeding at a pace which astonishes everybody, but Reed and Hearst.

There was once a modest watch dog which waited every day until the local express came along, and then raced it to the borders of the property. This conduct was most mystifying to the owners of the dog, and they consulted a psychologist, who, after due observation reported "The darned dog thinks he makes the train go."

Reed and Hearst are so successful in bringing the soldiers home that they ought to make speeches and write editorials demanding more ships, for with more ships more soldiers can be brought home in less time. One speech from Senator Reed and a thousand ships will be automatically completed, rush without other aid from the ways, and sail of their own accord to France. Such is the power of mind over matter.

THE MORRISON CODE COPYRIGHTED

IF THE Morrison "code," for Prussianizing the schools has any friends, beyond the circle of its limited group of original sponsors, they should present themselves long enough for somebody to read the code to them; preferably somebody who can analyze its queer, pompous language, and its prosaic, stilted and unoriginal ideas, as he goes along. Says Morrison:—

- 1—Reading ability in all children such as will enable them to read understandingly the ordinary news columns of the public press.
- 2—Power to manipulate the ordinary computations required in the common life of society with facility and accuracy.
- 3—Handwriting of a degree of legibility and speed sufficient for the ordinary affairs of life.

The dear man, who simply wants to say that the schools must continue to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, has copyrighted the bunch of language, given above, which he employs to convey such a well understood and simple idea.

What a lot of pompous, long winded, little prigs would be turned out by an educational system conducted a la Morrison.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

THE BEGINNING of any voluntary, intelligent action is the will to do it. A man will not walk if he wills to sit, nor ride up hill if he decides to walk down hill. Men will not marry, vote, work or build without the will. The condition antecedent to any useful change, is the desire to make it; the desire to have no more chattel slavery, to have woman suffrage, arbitration of labor disputes and so on.

The proof that men are about ready to unite for world peace is proved in the large number who advocate world peace; is shown in the promptness with which the world leaders were able to agree upon a world organization to prevent war.

The objections now heard to this agreement, are the old objections that were made to every beneficial change. The telephone is a good thing, but it will never be invented. Women ought to vote, but nobody knows what will happen if they do. Chattel slavery always was in the world, from immemorial

times, and always will be in the world.

Men hitherto have always killed each other to obtain their desires. This is not proof that they always must do so.

Every little state, no matter how tiny, has its exclusive class; its people who are satisfied with things just as they are; its people who want no change, because they are naturally opposed to change, or because they fear a change in their own status.

The moanings of Senator Poindexter and Congressman Fess, over the danger that the United States will sacrifice all its sovereignty and its Monroe Doctrine, are but duplications of the much earlier growing pains, doubts, moanings and writhings of the not numerous peoples who inhabited the several thirteen colonies which were joined to become the United States.

There were in the midst of each tiny group men who were quite sure that the rights of that group would be ridden down by the tyranny of the others. Nevertheless the colonies agreed to try to get along. They made a contract of government, in which each colony laid down a portion of its sovereignty, funding it into the general government. The result is the United States of America, which is proud of its history, and pleased with its accomplishments.

The proposed constitution of the League of Nations is the constitution of the United States born again, but with much less delegation of power, from the several states to the world state.

Ponderous Poindexters with long featherweight words roll out their periods about sovereignty, sobbing that the sovereignty of the United States will be abolished, if the Constitution of the League is adopted, and such ill considered talk.

The King was sovereign. He was often an absolute sovereign, and did, in theory at least, exactly what he pleased to do. When the people became king, it was convenient to refer to the powers of the people as sovereign powers, which indeed they were, for the people could, once popular government was established, do exactly as they pleased, more nearly than a king could.

Nevertheless there is no such government anywhere in the world; no government that even pretends to do exactly what it pleases. No government that can operate always and in each instance with arbitrary, unreasoned purpose.

Every treaty, every addition to international custom, every economic agreement that a government makes, limits the right of a government to do as it pleases.

If the American government agrees to join the League of Nations, agrees to submit certain differences to arbitration, agrees in certain other cases not to make war within three months after a decision of an International court, it will part with just so much right to do as it pleases about those things.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO ALIENS

AMERICANIZATION BY the process of instruction in English has enlisted the services of the Connecticut Minute Men, who were formerly the Four Minute Men, under the Federal government. The service of the organization was pledged to Justice George W. Wheeler, at last night's meeting.

The duty to instruct the non-English speaking foreigner in the language of the country is one that has been too long neglected. The economic and social value of a common speech is too great to be overlooked.

A community in which all speak a common tongue will have more solidarity, more capacity for united action, more civic force and more economic power.

If instruction in English can be arranged in the factories, for a few minutes a day, the benefits will be soon reflected in an increased output for the industry and in increased wages and satisfactions for the men.

If to the instruction in English is united simple instruction in the laws of health, the care of the body, diet and the maintenance of the home, much will be gained for the comfort and happiness of everybody. There is more than a little truth in the Scriptural story of the Tower of Babel. When God desired to bring confusion upon the activities of men he separated them in speech.

It is better for the United States that its people should speak a common tongue. But the United States can much better endure the presence of those who do not speak English, than they can endure to be present without speaking it.

When Bridgeport offers to aid the foreigner to knowledge of English he offers him a gift almost invaluable. The benefits that will flow from such instruction have only to be suitably presented to be embraced.

THE STAR IN THE EAST

THE PRESIDENT'S Boston speech rises as far above consideration of selfishness as the serene stars are above the murderous strife of quarreling tribes.

Without the League of Nations the treaty of peace will be a scrap of paper. There will be more war. War finally lays its burden upon the home. The hearts of women bear the weight.

The American people know by three centuries of experience that people of differing bloods, races and religions can dwell together in peace.

Looking into the heart of America Mr. Wilson saw there the Christian desire for the welfare of mankind. He told to Europe the story of what he saw, and Europe became steeped in the American ideal, and there determined to join the American people in a union of law and love.

The language of the President is irresistible. In the generous warmth of his altruism, selfishness melts like snow under a summer sun.

Those who thought themselves incapable of generous impulse feel a glow of warmth about the heart. The minds of Borah, Reed, Lodge and Sherman icy in the embrace of things of yore, are melting in the glow of a new day. Men CAN live in friendship.

After countless centuries the barriers of hate are broken away. Men know they can settle their differences without taking from the maid, her lover; from the wife, her husband; or from the mother, her son.

The League of Nations is but the logical extension of the League of Thirteen colonies. The League of Colonies was the experiment. The League of Nations is the improved and certain thing founded upon that proved and successful experiment.

Xerxes, Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Napoleon and the broken Wilhelm are dark stars in the history of this planet. In the new history Woodrow Wilson is a bright star in the East, showing wise men the way to wisdom.

PRESIDENT NOW BACK AT DESK IN THE CAPITOL

Is Faced With Busy Week Before His Departure Overseas on March 5.

SIGNS SIX BILLION WAR REVENUE BILL

Tomorrow Night Will Dine With Committees on Foreign Affairs.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson arrived in Washington at 5 o'clock this morning from Boston, where he landed yesterday from the transport George Washington. Because of the early hour he and Mrs. Wilson remained on their special train some time before going to the White House.

President Wilson left the train at 8:40 o'clock and drove to the White House.

Passing through the station with a brisk step Dr. Wilson found a cheering early morning crowd of travelers awaiting him. He acknowledged the applause by lifting his hand and smiling. Many scores of soldiers in the crowd stood rigidly at attention as the commander in chief passed by. On reaching his desk the President briskly set to work on matters requiring his attention which had been accumulating since he left Paris ten days ago. The more important legislation awaiting his signature, including the six billion dollar war revenue bill, was taken to Boston by Secretary Tumulty.

The President was faced with a busy week before his departure about March 5, for the return trip to Paris. This afternoon he was to preside at a cabinet meeting, while tomorrow night he has a dinner engagement with members of the senate and house foreign affairs committees to discuss the proposed constitution of the League of Nations.

Thursday the President will review a parade in honor of returned District of Columbia soldiers. No other engagements had been made so far as was known, but many requests to see the President on various matters were awaiting him.

President Wilson has been absent from Washington nearly three months, having left December third for New York, where he embarked on the George Washington for Brest.

Announcement was made on the arrival of the Presidential party in Washington today that the President had signed the six billion dollar war revenue bill. The bill was signed aboard the special train last night before the President retired. This measure carries a rider making the District of Columbia bone dry.

500,000 TROOPS TO RETURN HOME BEFORE JULY 1

Announced in General Order by Chief of Staff Gen. McAndrew Today.

NINE DIVISIONS FOR COMBAT FORCES

Confirms Report That Expeditionary Forces Are to Be Reduced.

Paris, Feb. 25.—Nearly 600,000 men of the American expeditionary force will, before July 1, either have returned to the United States or be homebound bound, according to the plans of the general staff announced in a general order by Brigadier James W. McAndrew, chief of staff, today. The 27th, 35th, 37th and 31st divisions will sail in March, the 26th, 77th, 82nd, 35th and 42nd in April; the 22nd, 28th, 32nd, 50th and 89th in May, and the 8th, 90th, 95th and 76th in June.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Announcement by General Pershing's chief of staff that 13 National Guard and National Army divisions were scheduled to sail from France before July 1, apparently confirms reports which have been current here that the expeditionary forces were to be reduced to a total strength of 300,000 by the end of the current fiscal year.

Calculations in the various war department bureaus, it is said, have been based upon the three hundred thousand strength in figuring on the maintenance of the army abroad after July 1.

The announcement from France indicates that in addition to the seven regular divisions now in France and into which presumably men desiring to remain temporarily are being transferred, the American forces after July will include the 29th National Guard, and the 78th and 81st National Army divisions. This would give a nine division strength for the combat forces and allow one division for employment as a depot unit.

While the statement from Paris named only eighteen divisions, all others not in France except the seven regular and four National Guard and National Army divisions already are on priority for early return or have been scheduled and are returning as casuals.

German shipping, which now becomes available, will be used in the repatriation of the troops. The order of precedence of their return is based on the order of their arrival. The only exceptions to this ruling will be when the advisability of rail and sea transportation, the relative location to ports or the controlling military situation makes the exception necessary. Troops in the service of supply and labor troops will be returned in the order which their services can be spared and so far as possible in the order of their arrival in France.